

RADICAL CITY
2nd Conference on Art, Design & Culture

ANUBHAV SHEORAN
Can the Subaltern Moo?

Sheoran outlines the semantic role animals' play in the city-while their real creaturely concerns remain largely ignored. The major discourse being shaped around the cow, for instance, seems to be anchored in a dichotomy in its portrayal, which lacks sensitization, eludes general perception, and deters one from imagining or engaging with alternative possibilities.

Anubhav Sheoran: Practicing architect working in the National Capital Region, interested in bottom-up collaborative spatial interventions, rhythm analysis, space syntax, and metadesign as a methodology for socio-spatial transformation in urban areas

ARUL PAUL
Queer Lucknow

This is a study of the LGBTQ+ histories of the city. Paul argues that queer archive of Lucknow—books, biographical records, poetry, newspapers, photographs, paintings, illustrations, posters, and digital references— is currently fragmented; and when pieced together it reveals the gendered and sexual histories of the city.

Arul Paul: Architect/educator and Associate Professor at the Nitte Institute of Architecture, Mangalore; working on the intersection between architecture, queer theory, and media studies.

ASHISH GANJU
Spontaneous Urbanisation

In discussing the story of a village on the outskirts of Delhi that has transformed into an urban center in the last three or four decades, Ganju makes a case to ground urban theories around the spontaneous settlements emerging on the margins of our organically evolved and planned settlements.

Ashish Ganju: Architect, Founding Director of the TVB School of Habitat Studies in New Delhi and co-author of the book 'The Discovery of Architecture: A Contemporary Treatise on Ancient Values and Indigenous Reality.'

FAHAD ZUBERI
Inglorious Lucknow

Zuberi chronicles the violence in Lucknow, which is not communal but sectarian. He argues that the conflict in Lucknow—that results in shifting neighborhoods, identities getting ghettoized, and an emergence of a new urbanity—is one of the important frames through which all our cities must be viewed.

Fahad Zuberi: Architect, academic, writer and contributor to publications such as *Domus India*, *Outlook Magazine* and *The Leaflet*.

GAURI BHARAT
Advertising RCC: Material Mainstreaming in Pre-Independence India

Bharat focuses on the cement and reinforced cement concrete from the moment of its introduction into construction practices in the 1920s. By examining the advertisements in technical journals and

printed news media, she probes some early claims that the producers and suppliers made, which reveal that the early architectural potentials of concrete were considered as desirable and marketed accordingly.

Gauri Bharat: Lead of the architectural history and theory program at CEPT University, Ahmedabad and author of 'In Forest, Field, and Factory', a volume on adivasi architectural history, currently working on ethnographies of the city and a history of reinforced concrete in India.

KIRANMAYI INDRAGANTI

City- The Perceptual Field of Inspirations

Through the study of her student's film on Bidar, Indraganti traces the historic walled city in north Karnataka. She argues that the city is a perceptual field of inspirations, something that is free-flowing, ever changing and boundless—just like cinema, the city too is beyond its materiality.

Kiranmayi Indraganti: Filmmaker, film studies scholar, Faculty at the Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, and author of *Her Majestic Voice* (2016, Oxford University Press).

MUSTANSIR DALVI

Art Deco Bombay: the Radical Re-imagination of the City through its aesthetics

A new aesthetic was born at the turn of the twentieth century Bombay; it was the result of new materials and technologies. A new semiotic was adapted to make it as Asia's foremost Art Deco city, all appropriated by the first generation of architects educated in India.

Mustansir Dalvi: Professor of Architecture at the Sir JJ College of Architecture, author of 'The Past as Present: pedagogical practices in architecture at the Bombay School of Art' (Sir JJ/UDRI, 2016) and editor of '20th Century Compulsions' (Marg, 2016); interested in charting urban transformations and their semiotics.

NAMRATA TORASKAR

'Belonging' in a City of Unbelongers

Toraskar argues how Mumbai's idea of 'dwelling' thrives on visual images unconnected to the ecological, historical and social context of the city and how the visual culture propagated through hoardings, advertisements, and apartment apps shape its urbanity.

Namrata Toraskar: An architect, researcher and an academic teaching at WCFA, Mysuru; interested in the study of building crafts, dwelling rituals and visual culture of Indian vernacular settlements.

NEELKANTH CHHAYA

City As Organic Patchwork: City As Streamlined Machine.

Neelkanth Chhaya reflects on the nature of the contemporary city, where technocrats dream of absolute coordination and efficiency, and with the technologies of information in the ascendant, while the idea of "collective" has become a huge faceless, shapeless mass of urban inhabitants – as the scale parity between the human and the machine has vanished.

Neelkanth Chhaya: Eminent architect and academic, former Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at CEPT and current Adjunct Faculty at Srishti.

PITHAMBER RAO POLSANI

Ruinous Imaginations

Polsani, in discussing fractured realities of urban geography, employs ruins as an onto-epistemological category to frame the neoliberal urban phenomenon in India. In doing so, he brings it in sharp contrast with previous—Modernist—forms of urbanism such as company towns, which lay in ruins now.

Pithamber Rao Polsani: Dean of the School of Advanced Studies and Research at the Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology, multidisciplinary research scholar interested in the history of design ideas, vernacular design, urbanism and philosophies of urban design.

PRIYA JOSEPH

Death of Brick – Rise of the City

Priya Joseph traces the trajectory of the historic and contemporary place of brick in cities. She explores the historic use of brick, through paradoxical cases and the events that led to standardization of brick in the 19th century, changing architecture.

Priya Joseph: Architect-researcher, PhD Candidate at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education through Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology; interested in chronicling histories of architecture as revealed through material and tectonics of making.

PRIYA SEN and SHAI HEREDIA

Johnny Crawl & The Atmosphere

By constructing radical cinematic moments of moving image art that evokes nuanced and critical perspectives on the urban condition the authors explore formal experimentation and reflect upon the symbiotic relationship between cinema and urban life.

Priya Sen: Filmmaker and artist working across film/video, sound and installation; currently exploring egalitarian and itinerant forms with film and sound.

Shai Heredia: Filmmaker and curator of film art, founder of Experimenta, an international festival for experimental cinema in India and Faculty at the Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology.

RACHNA MEHRA

Land(e)scapes of Utopia: Reconciling old ways of living in New Towns in India

Mehra writes about the new towns built in India post-1947 that were intended to exhibit the vigour and vitality embodied in the actions of the fledgling nation state. As a result, the objective was to create new human relations as a corollary to planning. It implied that people could transform civic life if they embraced and optimized the hard-won gains of citizenship over the kinship ties.

Rachna Mehra: Assistant Professor in Urban Studies Program, Ambedkar University, Delhi; interested in Partition Studies, gender and refugee rehabilitation policies in India, and the urban history of small towns and cities.

SANKALPA

City in Steel and Timber

Sankalpa argues that building details become an extremely important aspect of the future and of the skyline of cities. Details that can be dismantled and reused in its life cycle, reduce pollution and the

pressure on resources, easily adapt to changing building function and use less water in construction, will eventually define the future cities.

Sankalpa: Architect and urban designer, Faculty at CEPT University, Ahmedabad and co-founder of the 'Thumb Impressions Collaborative'; interested in developing pedagogies that are bodily involved.

SAVYASAACHI

Non-Human Nature and City Life: Exploring the Radical Middle Ground

He explores the difference between two meanings of 'radical' with reference to the city. On the one hand radical refers to a radicalization by means of adopting extreme social, economic and positions not inclusive of non-human nature and, on the other hand, radical refers to conventions inclusive of non-human nature.

Savyasaachi: Social scientist, Faculty at the Department of Sociology, Jamia Milia Islamia and author of the Penguin book of forest writings titled 'Between the Earth and the Sky'.

SHONALEEKA KAUL

The Many Splendored City: Social Commentaries from Sanskrit Literature

Kaul article deals with multilayered representations of urban space as a physical and social entity in Sanskrit poetry and plays. Dating to the first millennium CE, these texts are ancient yet resonate with the contemporary, and are eloquent in telling us about the radical 'citi-ness' of the city beyond its formal contours.

Shonaleeka Kaul: Cultural historian of early South Asia, Associate Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University's Centre for Historical Studies and author of 'Imagining the Urban: Sanskrit and the City in Early India'.

SOHAIL HASHMI

What is A City?

Hashmi's paper identifies the elements that turn a village into a city and underscores the essence of a city, not merely the size of the population, but its character, the essential features that distinguish the city from other human settlements, from the village, the mufassil town and the suburb.

Sohail Hashmi: Social activist, heritage conservationist, historian, founder of the 'Delhi Heritage Walks' and author of the book 'Sanchi: Where Tigers Fly and Lions Have Horns' which forms part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India Series.

SONAL MITHAL

Lucknow Unrestrained: Palimpsest of Incongruous Possibilities

Mithal undertakes a gendered reading of the city of Lucknow, A city, she argues bred on liberal-minded, educated, and highly skilled women with an adaptable spirit, women who defied the hetero-normative gender stereotypes, and took charge of not just their identity, but also wealth, profession, and sexuality.

Sonal Mittal: Founder of architectural conservation firm 'People for Heritage Concern' and practicing artist; prioritises archival and material research-based architectural conservation and art practice.

SUDHANVA DESHPANDE

The City as Stage

Drawing on his personal experience as a city street theatre actor and director, Deshpande critically examines Peter Brook's idea of, empty space becoming a performance space. Because the spaces where a street play is staged are never empty, instead they are charged with histories of contestations and therefore a performance has to contend with, become part of, and be partisan in, this contestation over spaces in the city.

Sudhanva Deshpande: Actor and director with Jana Natya Manch, Delhi, publisher with LeftWord Books, co-director of two documentaries on Habib Tanvir and editor of 'Theatre of the Streets: The Jana Natya Manch Experience' (Jana Natya Manch, 2007) and 'Our Stage: Pleasures and Perils of Theatre Practice in India' (Tulika Books, 2009).

SURESH JAYARAM

Connect: A City of Actions and Objects

Jayaram maps the city of Bangalore as associations of collective human actions – such as rituals that are sacred and secular, and objects like flowers, fruits and food – that have become part of the botanical cosmos and a local/global network of migration.

Suresh Jayaram: Visual artist, art historian, arts administrator, curator and the Founder of '1 Shanthi Road' studio/gallery in Bengaluru.

SURESH KUMAR

Performing the City

Basing on his personal artistic journey as a sculptor and performance artists Suresh Kumar reflects on his artistic practice as a response to morphing cityscape of Bangalore and the expanding footprint of city that rapidly reshapes the borders between the periphery and the center.

Suresh Kumar: Performance artist, arts facilitator and arts mentor; exploring social and environmental issues and notions of community and spaces through site-specific works.

TIKENDAR SINGH PANWAR

Governance of cities from the 74th amendment to the SPVs

The author reflects on the contemporary relevance of the 74th constitutional amendment that directly effected governance of cities in the country. He argues that amendment needs to be updated because the issues like migration in cities, street vending, urban poverty, homelessness etc., are not addressed in the scope of the 74th amendment.

Tikender Panear: Was the directly elected deputy Mayor of Shimla city. He was also a member of the national task force in the country to review the 74th constitutional which speaks about decentralised governance.

VIDYA RAO

A tale of two (intertwined) cities

Vidya Rao chronicles the worlds of Hindustani music and the Urdu poetry of Hyderabad and Delhi, and the ways in which, in the past, *Hyderabadis* and *Dilli-walas* moved back and forth, sharing ideas, genres and texts, and in doing so, contributed to the richness of each city's cultural life.

Vidya Rao: Singer of *thumri*, *dadra* and *ghazal*; she also writes on music and the performing arts.